

Street and Bikeway Maintenance

Last Updated Friday, 12 May 2006

Transportation Maintenance is responsible for services including:

Bike path cleaning and major maintenance work

Please note that the Boulder Creek Path is maintained by the Parks Department at (303) 441-3400, and the Broadway bike path between University Avenue and Regent Drive is maintained by the University of Colorado at (303) 492-5511.

Maintaining city concrete catch basins, gutters and curbs

Minor patching and repair of city streets, including pothole repair - report potholes online

Removal of snow and ice from streets, on-street bike lanes and paths

Maintaining most of the city's traffic medians

The Chip and Seal Program

Sidewalk obstructions

Sidewalk Repair Program

Street and bike path sweeping

Street resurfacing

Maintenance concerns and questions can be addressed online or by calling Street & Bikeway Maintenance at (303) 413-7162.

Adopt-a-Median!

The city of Boulder needs your help.

Chip and Seal Program

During the summer months, Transportation Maintenance performs a procedure on residential streets called "Chip and Seal." This preventative maintenance procedure rejuvenates old asphalt and creates a new riding surface. Chip and seal reduces the number of potholes and other types of pavement deterioration and extends the life of the street. The cost of this type of resurfacing is approximately one-third of the cost of traditional asphalt overlay. Asphalt overlay is applied to streets approximately every 15 years on a rotating basis.

Crews prepare streets for chip and seal by applying an asphalt crack filling material as well as selectively paving sections of streets. The first phase of the chip and seal is called "chipping" and consists of spraying a thin layer of liquid asphalt onto the road surface, then immediately applying a layer of crushed rock which binds to the asphalt. This phase takes approximately one day. You can drive on this surface within 15 minutes of applying the chips to the liquid asphalt. After approximately two to three days, the street is swept to pick up loose rock.

The second phase of chip and seal occurs approximately two weeks after the chipping is completed and consists of spraying another thin layer of liquid asphalt on top of the chips. This process is called "fogging" and results in a more traditional black street color. The fog coat takes approximately two to three hours to dry. The fog coating seals the street and helps prevent water from permeating into the chips and subsurface. Two to three days after the fogging your street will again be swept to pick up any remaining chips.

Cul-de-sacs do not receive a chip and seal treatment as it is not the best treatment for these areas. Usually, cul-de-sacs receive an asphalt overlay, if maintenance is needed. Cul-de-sacs in good condition usually receive a fog coat only.

After the chipping is done, drive slowly to avoid kicking up any loose rock and asphalt. Driving less than five mph will help prevent asphalt from getting on the finish of your vehicle. Bicyclists should use caution to avoid slipping on loose materials while the application is curing. It is best to stay off the newly chipped surface for one day to avoid tracking asphalt onto driveways and sidewalks and staining concrete.

If you get asphalt on your vehicle and it has not set, water will rinse it off. If the asphalt has set, most common automotive hand cleaners will take it off. These types of cleaners should also be effective on clothes, carpet, or furniture. Please check cleaner labels for any restrictions. If chip and seal gets on vehicle tires, it will come off with driving.

Crews will post signs in your neighborhood 72 hours before chip and seal work is to be done. The process is weather dependent, so please expect delays if there is inclement weather (rain, high humidity, cool temperatures or surface moisture). No on-street parking will be allowed while crews are working. Vehicles not removed from the street during the times posted will be towed at the owners expense.

Sight and Sidewalk Obstructions

Property owners are responsible for removing, trimming, cutting, or otherwise rectifying trees, bushes, and shrubs on their property which overhang a sidewalk, right-of-way or meter pit, creating a hazard, obstruction or sight problem. Contact Transportation Maintenance at 303-413-7162 to report any tree branches overhanging in a roadway. Loose or cut branches left on the road are considered a violation of the trash ordinance. When reporting a violation, please attempt to note which trees or property the branches are on.

Street and bike path Sweeping

Street sweeping services include sweeping and cleaning streets and gutters to remove dirt, debris, and hazards with the aim of increasing safety, improving drainage, and reducing dust and air pollution.

Most of the work is accomplished using mechanical sweepers; although, hand cleaning is performed at inaccessible locations. Flushing with water may also be used in conjunction with sweeping to clean medians and parkways. University Hill area streets are swept from curb to curb up to twice a year as needed. Streets on the Hill with on-street bike lanes are swept once per week.

Street Resurfacing Program

Boulder's annual street resurfacing program rehabilitates selected roadway pavements throughout the city. Specifically, the program includes Collector and Arterial Classification roadways, and in some cases, roadways serving as bus routes or bike routes.

Resurfacing generally occurs in four phases. The first phase includes removal and replacement of deteriorated curbs and gutters as well as reconstruction of selected sidewalk ramps to conform to American with Disabilities Act (ADA) criteria. The second phase includes patching of cracked, rutted or pothole areas. The third phase includes milling of the roadway surface. The fourth phase includes the actual resurfacing of the road with new asphalt, followed by re-striping.

2006 Resurfacing Program:

The Resurfacing Program list for 2006 will be developed over the course of the winter 2005/2006. Work will be anticipated to begin with concrete repair work in the spring, followed by asphalt resurfacing work in the summer of 2006. Additional detailed information will be provided as available.

For more detailed impact and schedule information, see cone zones.